

I am very disturbed that Sinclair Broadcasting is forcing its stations, especially those in "swing" states in a particularly close election, to air its anti-Kerry "documentary" just a short time before the election.

This decision is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Like other media corporations, Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Moreover, if Sinclair goes forward with its decision to air this "documentary," then it should face the legal consequences of that decision.

Thank you.